

BLM WH&B NEWS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WANTED - A FEW GOOD HOMES FOR AMERICA'S LIVING LEGENDS

(Las Cruces, New Mexico – April 29 to May 1). Strong – Proud – Symbolic of the American West – 95 wild horses and burros return to Las Cruces, New Mexico in search of new homes.

Now you can bring one of these amazing animals into your life. Hosted by the Bureau of Land Management, a Wild Horse and Burro adoption event will take place at the Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, April 29 to May 1. This two-day event features about 30 yearlings (young horses), 30 mares, 20 studs and 20 burros – 10 jacks and 10 jennies available for adoption.

Wild Horses Win Award

This is not the first return to the area for Wild Horses. Two weeks ago Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Kathleen Clarke was in Southern New Mexico to personally present a national 4 Cs award—an award that recognizes performance that exemplifies Interior Secretary Gail Norton's Four C's philosophy of consultation, cooperation, and communication, all in the service of conservation—to a group that has made homes for many of these bastions of southwestern history.

The American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC), which received national recognition for their partnership efforts constructing almost 60 miles of equestrian trails, holds national Equestrian Endurance Ride Competitions annually. Among the contestants, and this year's winners, are wild horses adopted from BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program.

According to Randy Eiland, AERC SW Region Director, "The newest stars in this tough and challenging sport are Robin Hood, Mustang Lady, and Dreamweaver. The common thread that links these three great endurance horses is their loyalty to their owners, their working attitude, calm disposition, and the fact that they are all BLM Wild Horses. I am sure the BLM Wild Horse can excel in performance events as well as being a loyal and safe partner for the recreational rider."

These horses, and their owners, received the "BLM 2003 Endurance Wild Horse of the Year" award.

“Once a wild horse connects with you, there is nothing he won’t do for you,” said Robin Hood’s owner Dr. Philip Ottinger.

Now You Can Have One Too

If you are ready to connect with a wild horse or burro, this adoption is your opportunity. Preview of all animals available for adoption begins Thurs. afternoon from 4 to 6 p.m., then again on Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sat. from 8 a.m. to noon. A competitive bid will be held on Friday at 10 a.m. Following the initial competitive bid, walk-up adoptions will be held throughout the weekend until noon on Saturday. The minimum adoption fee is \$125, per animal to qualified adopters. Individuals are caretakers for the first 12 months and then, after a positive compliance check, they are eligible to apply for title to the animal.

Admission is free. Spectators and adopters are encouraged to stop by early to learn what it takes to adopt a wild horse or burro. Wild Horse and Burro Specialists and past adopters will be available during this event for questions on the adoption experience.

To qualify, bidders must be at least 18 years of age, with no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have specific facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. All animals **must be picked up on Sat. by noon** in a covered trailer with solid walls and floors – no drop ramp trailers. Applications to adopt are accepted on site.

For more information call toll free at **866-4-Mustangs**, or visit the Bureau of Land Management’s web site at www.wildhorseandburro.gov.

Directions: Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds 12125 Robert Larson Blvd, Las Cruces.

The fairgrounds are located 12 miles west of Las Cruces. From I-10, take Exit 127 (East) or Exit 131 (West).

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation’s public lands. With the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the Bureau gained the responsibility to care for wild horses and burros on these lands in harmony with other natural resources. When an over-population of wild horses and burros exists on these public lands, some animals are removed and offered to the general public for adoption.